

# opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • DECEMBER 2007

## Panel on U.S. Media Coverage of Latin America

### OPC EVENT RECAP

by Aimee Rinehart

Many people are attracted to journalism to tell the untold story. With U.S. media's attention on the Middle East, Latin America is often overlooked. The panel at the OPC event on November 12 contained four journalists who have spent their lives telling the under-reported story of Latin America.

One of the stories revealed during the panel was the changes in the Guatemalan government inspired by Francisco Goldman's book, *The Art of Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop?* Goldman worked for nine years on the book about the 1998 murder of a Catholic Bishop two days after he released a landmark archdiocese-sponsored report on the atrocities of Guatemala's civil war, and the winding, perilous investigation that followed.

Goldman said political corruption has dissipated in Guatemala, but "it's all about organized crime now; Guatemala has turned itself into a 'Fed Ex' for drugs."

He said a secret kind of populism

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Photo: Aimee Rinehart

From left to right, Peter Kinoy, Francisco Goldman, OPC vice president and panel organizer Jane Ciabattari, panel moderator Calvin Sims and George de Lama.

## Chasing the Light: Images of India Diaspora

### OPC EVENT RECAP

by Darren Taffinder

On Wednesday, November 7, Steve Raymer and Nayan Chanda sat down in front of packed room at the Asia Society to discuss Raymer's new book, *Images of a Journey: India in Diaspora*.

Hearing Raymer, Associate Professor of Journalism at Indiana University and a distinguished staff photographer with *National Geographic*, talk about travelling and witnessing the world up-close, I wasn't alone in wanting to put down my pen and pick up the camera. Of course, there's a little more to it than that.

Raymer's new book details through pictures and words some of the many stories behind the 20 to 25 million people of Indian origin who live outside their native home. This Indian diaspora reaches across the world into every con-

continent, and, as Raymer stated in his opening remarks, "the sun never sets on its scattered millions." During the course of making the book, Raymer travelled from New York to England via the Middle East, South Africa, Trinidad, Southeast Asia and Hong Kong capturing the many faces of this enormous migration. He ends his journey in Bangalore, the high-tech capital of a resurgent India, where there is a reverse migration taking place, as many former Indian immigrants (including second and third generation) return home.

If 75 percent of a great photograph is finding a good subject, then a sign of a great photographer is to make that subject feel comfortable being photographed. Raymer came across as such a friendly and likable guy, which is what makes his photographs so compelling. In each picture he seems to capture the many contradictions of being an immi-

(Continued on Page 3)

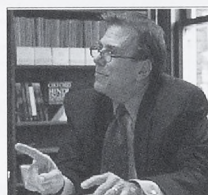


Photo: Ben Walker

Steve Raymer



# Panel on Media Coverage of Latin America in the United States

(Continued From Page 1)

is now brewing even in the rural communities. "What's overlooked by the U.S. are the immigrant communities in the U.S. They're sending money and information home, so these highland communities are no longer disconnected."

A theme that resounded in the evening is the lack of attention U.S. media gives to South and Central Americas, especially now when all cameras and resources are pointed in the Middle East, covering wars, ongoing and potential conflicts.

"If your work wasn't about Iraq, it's difficult to get money," said documentary filmmaker Peter Kinoy. "Our project was a difficult idea to sell because it's not a story where the U.S. is the bad guy. The thinking was that the problems in Peru were homemade, so why would Americans be interested?"

Seeing the need for U.S. reporters based in Latin America, George de Lama, *Chicago Tribune* managing editor for news and a new OPC board member, worked to open two *Tribune* bureaus in Latin America and played a leading role in opening the Havana bureau in 2001.

"We wanted to be in Cuba for the

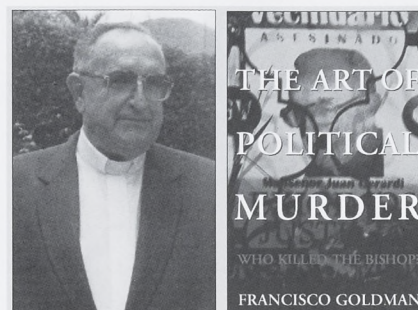
transition that has yet to take place," de Lama said. "We sold the idea to the Cuban government because the *Chicago Tribune* has had 100 year legacy of covering Cuba, and that we wanted to report on it from a U.S. perspective, not like it was the dark side of the moon."

A member of the audience asked what the American policy should be to re-establish relations with the oil-rich nation of Venezuela, particularly with Hugo Chavez as its leader.

"You have to encourage democracy by example," Kinoy said. "The United States has to clean up its own house first."

Goldman said it's an interesting time in Guatemala and South and Central Americas and even a hopeful time. "Saying that Chavez is turning back the clock is a bogey bear. He's not," Goldman said. "These countries like having elections."

Calvin Sims, a former *New York Times* correspondent based in Buenos Aires, and a new OPC board member who now serves as program officer with the Ford Foundation, moderated the panel. The panel was co-sponsored by the National Book Critics Circle and Off-the-Record of the Foreign Policy Association.



Bishop Juan Gerardi Donedera, pictured left, is the subject of Francisco Goldman's book *The Art of Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop?* The book begins with Bishop Gerardi's murder April 26, 1998, a few days after the release of a church-sponsored report implicating the military in the killings of more than two hundred thousand citizens, a murder that was not taken seriously by the police.

The book, which began as a *New Yorker* article ("Annals of Crime: Murder Comes for the Bishop," published March 15, 1999), casts light into the darkest corners of this tortuous case, the U.S. supported war in Central America and the continuing legacy of violence and corruption. *The Art of Political Murder* traces the seven-year investigation and led Goldman to witnesses to which no other journalist had gained access.

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# OPC to Re-Launch Web Site With Community Features

by Marshall Loeb

Those of us who use the OPC Web site know that it is a quick and convenient way to find information about the Club and its members. If you want early notice of forthcoming Club events or if you want to read timely letters written by members of our Freedom of the Press Committee protesting the abusive threats made to journalists, you can consult the site.



OPC President  
Marshall Loeb

Well and good, but for a while now, many members have been urging us to unleash the awesomely expanding powers of the Web. So we are doing just that: enlarging and substantially improving the Web site.

We aim to have the capability for journalists to interact and speak to each other about key international issues, media problems and also the nitty-gritty of covering war, the technical information needed to cover Iraq as opposed to

Russia. A new Weblog is already up and functioning, please log on and contribute to the discussion.

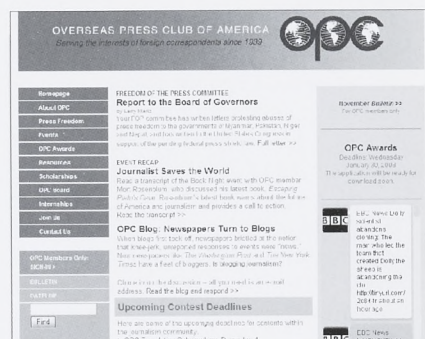
Other plans include a secure membership directory and additional pictures to make the site more appealing.

In order to solve the usual financial problems of the OPC, two members of the Board, Dinda Elliott and Bill Holstein, organized a campaign to solicit personal funding from Board members. They successfully raised \$17,000 that gave the go-ahead to the Web Site Committee.

The Web Site Committee, comprised of David Fondiller, Kevin McDermott and Aimee Rinehart, plunged ahead and hired the Web site design firm Soapboxx Collective to proceed with plans.

The redesign will not happen overnight. If all goes well, there should be some demonstrable progress by mid-winter and a re-launch of the site in March, just before the annual dinner on April 24, 2008.

Online: [www.opcofamerica.org](http://www.opcofamerica.org)



This is a screen shot of the current look of the OPC Web site.

The re-launch will include:

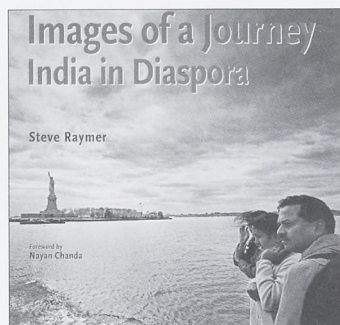
- Online membership payment
- Networking capabilities for those who choose to participate
- Robust blogging software to engage journalists globally
- Member-only areas with news, special Club offers and events
- Frequent updates with wire feeds of news and journalism issues supplied by like-minded organizations

## Chasing the Light With Steve Raymer: Images of India Diaspora

(Continued From Page 1)

grant, the excitement of the new and opportunities of being elsewhere, mixed with the sadness of what has been left behind.

Part of what made the whole evening so interesting was listening to the conversation between Raymer and Chanda. Chanda



is the Director of Publications at the Yale Center for study of Globalization and editor of YaleGlobal Online:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu> and a member of the Indian diaspora himself. This gave Raymer's beautiful images a sense of context, to ask the question, what does it mean to be an Indian living out side of India?

"The great photojournalists," as Raymer stated in his opening remarks, "are the people who literately chase the light. They see light falling on a subject and are drawn to it." Raymer has spent more than two decades chasing the light. For photography lovers globally, it is hoped that he'll continue to chase it for years to come.

A photo slideshow with images from the book can be viewed online at [www.digitaljournalist.org/issue0709](http://www.digitaljournalist.org/issue0709)



Photo: Steve Raymer

**Photo above:** Indian families join the rush hour procession of water taxis, called "abras" in Arabic, crossing Dubai Creek, a traditional seaport crowded with traditional wooden ships, or "dhows," that trade with Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Somalia and India



Photo: Steve Raymer

**Photo left:** Hare Krishna devotees, like Ms. Suci Rani of London, celebrate "Rathayatra," or the Carnival of Chariots.

**Note:** Original photos are in color.



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## Freedom of the Press Committee Report to the Board of Governors

by Larry Martz

OCTOBER 30 – Since we last met, your committee has written letters protesting abuses of press freedom to the governments of Myanmar, Pakistan, Niger and Nepal, and has written to the United States Congress in support of the pending federal press shield law.

We told the military junta of Myanmar, formerly Burma, that we and the world were horrified and outraged by the brutal repression of the recent peaceful protest by monks and citizens. We protested the beatings and arrests of many journalists and the point-blank shooting of the Japanese photographer Kenji Nagai. We demanded that the soldier who shot him be held accountable for murder, and we urged the junta to end its policy of repression.

We wrote to President Musharraf of Pakistan to protest his government's beatings, arrests, and use of tear gas and batons to discourage coverage by the independent press of Pakistan. Among the more outrageous recent events, the 14-year-old son of a news agency editor was beaten near his school, apparently in retaliation for his father's work. And Munir Mengel, the head of a TV station, Baluch Voice, who had been held prisoner by the

ISI intelligence agency for 16 months in a secret location, was finally released and declared guilty of no crime by the Baluchistan High Court. Two days later he was arrested again, and is still in custody. We called this a mockery of justice and urged Musharraf to use his recent reelection to strengthen the democracy he claims to want.

The committee called on the government of Niger to release Ibrahim Manzo Diallo, a broadcast journalist who is being held incommunicado by the military at an unknown location. He was accused only of being a correspondent for broadcaster Radio France Internationale, which, as we reminded the prime minister, "is not a criminal offense in your country."

We called on the government of Nepal to rescue Birendra Shah, a broadcast journalist who is the latest of scores of Nepalese journalists to be abducted, threatened or injured by Maoist rebels. One of the missing, Prakash Thakun, has been gone for three months and one of the rebel groups claims to have killed him.

In urging Congress to pass the federal shield law, the committee wrote: "We do not believe it exaggerated to say that the history of this country would be different had journalists not guaranteed

confidentiality to their sources. Watergate might not have had the impact it did had it not been for an aggressive press relying on protected sources. Most recently, the appalling abuses at Abu Ghraib and Walter Reed Hospital were exposed because journalists promised to protect the identity of their sources." The two houses of Congress are working on a compromise bill that they hope to make acceptable to the White House, which has opposed it.

### 2007 OPC Awards Update

Awards in 21 categories are for work in the calendar year 2007.

**Submission deadline:** Wednesday, January 30, 2008. Printable applications can be found on the Web site [www.opcofamerica.org](http://www.opcofamerica.org) and are also available by mail by calling the OPC office 212-626-9220.

Board member Kathleen Hunt will coordinate the judging committees.

### SAVE THE DATE

Awards Dinner at the Mandarin Oriental in New York City  
**Thursday, April 24, 2008**

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## Welcome to Our New Members

### Adam Benson Ellick

Video Journalist  
*The New York Times*  
Active Resident - Young

### Edward Klein

Author and Contributing Editor  
*Vanity Fair* and *Parade*  
Active Resident  
Reinstatement

### Amy Lehr

Media Relations  
U.S. Council for International Business  
Associate Resident

### Laura Tyson Li

Writer/Journalist  
Active Resident

### Theodore Macauley

Director, International Projects  
*Washington Times*  
Lives in Villefranche sur Mer, France  
Son of Doris Macauley  
Active Overseas

### Eleanor Natili

U.S. Correspondent & Columnist  
*Allure* magazine (Italy)  
Active Resident

### Terry O'Reilly

President  
Hubbard Holdings LLC  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
Associate Non Resident  
Reinstatement

### Gertrude Raymond

Honorary membership bestowed by the Board to widow of OPC Past President Jack Raymond 1972 to 1976  
Honorary Resident

### Elizabeth Sharland

Writer/Playwright  
West Palm Beach, FL  
Active Non-Resident  
Reinstatement

### William D. Smith

Writer/Public Affairs Consultant  
Associate Resident

### Kelly So

Chief Information Officer  
Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office  
Associate Resident

### Stevenson Swanson

National Correspondent  
*Chicago Tribune*  
New York Bureau  
Active Resident

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Felice Levin  
Linda Goetz Holmes





## PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

### BAGHDAD:

**Salih Saif Aldin**, 32, an Iraqi journalist for *The Washington Post*, was shot and killed October 14 while reporting from a volatile neighborhood in southern Baghdad. He was shot once in the head, apparently at close range, in an attack that appeared to be deliberate. When shot, he was taking photographs on a street where several houses had been burned during recent fighting.

Known for his courage in covering some of the worst areas in Baghdad, Saif Aldin once had been severely beaten when he ignored threats to leave Tikrit or be killed. For security reasons, he wrote under a tribal name, Salih Dehema. He became a *Washington Post* staff reporter in 2004. The Committee to Protect Journalists said at least 118 journalists have been killed in Iraq since the war started in 2003, including at least 96 Iraqis.

**BAYSIDE, Texas:** **David Halberstam** interviewed more than 100 people in his research for his last book, *The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War*. From his interviews with Korean War veterans, he reconstructed battles fought in the first year of that conflict. How could old soldiers remember the minute-by-minute fighting that they had experienced more than 50 years ago? In an e-mail to "People," Vietnam War correspondent **Joe Galloway** provided an answer: "As to the memories of soldiers, what I have found is that memories of personal combat are etched deeply in the hearts and minds of those who have seen hand-to-hand action and seen the resulting dead, friendly and enemy, piled in heaps."

Galloway and retired Lieutenant General Hal Moore depended on the memory of ordinary soldiers in researching their book, *We Were Soldiers Once... and Young*, a minute-by-minute account of the first major battle fought by American troops in Vietnam. Galloway is writing a sequel to that book, and it will be published in April.

**BEIJING:** Three international journalists have joined the faculty of the Global Business Journalism Program that started in September at Tsinghua University. They are OPC board member **Robert J. Dowling**, former managing editor of *BusinessWeek International*; **Ann M. Morrison**, former editor of *Time Europe*; and **Nailene Chou Wiest**, a former Reuters business correspondent in New York and Shanghai. Chou Wiest also is the program's co-director.



When China celebrated its National Journalists Day on November 8, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported that 29 Chinese journalists were "in prison for practicing their profession." **Joel Simon**, executive director of the New York-based Committee, said in a statement, "China has repeatedly failed to meet its Olympic pledges or to take meaningful steps to improve press freedom."

**BROOKLYN:** **Marianne Pearl** has withdrawn her wrongful death suit against people and organizations she believed were responsible for the 2002 kidnapping and beheading of her husband, *Wall Street Journal* correspondent **Danny Pearl**, in Pakistan.

In a letter in October to the U.S. federal judge presiding over the case, her lawyers said the defendants had not answered the suit filed in July, but the letter did not explain the reason for dropping the case. Marianne, an OPC member who lives in Paris, had sought damages from Al Qaeda, Pakistan's Habib Bank that provided financial services to an outlawed Islamic charity and a dozen reputed terrorists.

**COLUMBUS, Ohio:** A November 1 AP dispatch bylined **Julie Carr Smyth** and datelined Columbus is an excellent example of how to pack every key element of a story into one lead sentence:

"Paul Tibbets, who etched his

mother's name – Enola Gay – into history on the nose of a B-29 bomber he flew to drop the atomic bomb over Hiroshima, died Thursday after six decades of steadfastly defending the mission."

It's all there in one sentence: The pilot, his mother, his B-29, the atomic bomb, his death and his defense – six facts in 37 words!

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia's Supreme Court has ordered *Time Asia* to pay 1 billion rupees (U.S.\$106 million) in damages to former President Suharto for a 1999 cover story accusing him of corruption. Issued in September, the verdict overturned lower court rulings in 2000 and 2001 in *Time's* favor. The Supreme Court also ordered six *Time Asia* employees to issue apologies for publication in Indonesian magazines and *Time's* international editions.

**KATHMANDU:** Nepalese journalist **Birendra Shah** was kidnapped and killed October 4 by three expelled members of the Maoist Communist Party of Nepal. The Party said it was shocked by the murder and called the killing an individual and anarchist act. Shah reported for Nepal FM, *Dristi Weekly* and Avenues TV. **Shankar Panthi**, correspondent for the pro-Maoist Naya Satta, was killed in Nepal in September in circumstances that remain unclear, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported.

**LONDON:** Despite being paralyzed for two years from a spinal blood clot and confined to a wheelchair, OPC member **Horst Faas**, AP's Pulitzer Prize photographer, continues to travel. This summer he went to London from his Munich, Germany home to address the London Press Club and to attend the opening of an exhibition of his work in London's Frontline Club.





**Steve Oram**, chief executive of several regional newspapers, is the new chairman of the London Press Club. He succeeded **Donald Trelford**, emeritus journalism professor at Sheffield University, who was elected Club president after a five-year term as chairman.



**Steve Oram**

Queen Elizabeth II has honored **Christiane Amanpour** by naming her a Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her service to journalism. She is CNN's chief international correspondent.



**Christiane Amanpour**

**LOS ANGELES:** After the death of **Edward Seidensticker** was reported in the October *Bulletin*, OPC member **Jim Colligan** recalled an anecdote from Seidensticker, translator of Japanese authors. Seidensticker told Colligan, a Roman Catholic priest, that he once overheard two women in a U.S. bookstore discussing Junichiro Tanizaki's *The Makioka Sisters*, one of the novels Seidensticker translated. One of the women said she believed the book was about a group of Catholic nuns who have missions and schools in Asian countries. Actually, the novel tells the story of four sisters from an upper middle class Osaka family during the five years leading up to the Pacific War.

**MERCED, California:** **Mike (Buck) Tharp**, a former correspondent in Tokyo, joined the *Merced Sun-Star* this summer as local news editor. He was teaching for his seventh year at California State College in Fullerton and finishing up a master's degree in communications when he was tipped off on the Merced opening by the *Sun-Star* sports editor with whom he worked years ago on a Topeka, Kansas newspaper. Tharp worked in Japan between 1976 and 1990 first with *The Wall Street Journal* and then in sequence *The New York Times*, *Far*

## 2007 Courage in Journalism Awards

The International Women's Media Foundation presented its 2007 Courage in Journalism Awards in October to the following nine women. **Lydia Cacho** of Mexico, has faced death threats and travels with bodyguards because of her reporting on domestic violence, organized crime, political corruption and pedophiles. **Serkalem Fasil**, former owner and publisher of three weekly newspapers in Ethiopia, was arrested for publishing articles critical of the government, faced life imprisonment or the death penalty and gave birth prematurely while in prison. Released in April, she faces continuing legal battles. Six Iraqi women in the McClatchy Newspaper's Baghdad bureau – **Huda Ahmen**, **Shatha al Awsy**, **Sahar Issa**, **Alaa Majeed**, **Zaineb Obeld** and **Ban Adil Sarhan** – have dodged gun battles and car bombs to report from Iraq. **Peta Thornycroft**, a journalist for 35 years, is one of the few remaining independent reporters in Zimbabwe. She reports on human rights abuses and deteriorating living conditions, and was arrested in 2002 while investigating a government campaign against the opposition.

So dangerous is their work that the McClatchy correspondents refuse to be photographed. Speaking for them when the awards were presented at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Sahara Issa said, "Every interview we conduct may be our last... We live double lives. None of our friends or relatives know what we do. My children must lie about my profession. They cannot under any circumstance boast of my accomplishments, and neither can I."



**Cacho**



**Fasil**



**Thornycroft**

*Eastern Economic Review* and *U.S. News & World Report*.

He was president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ) 1989 to 1990. In 1990, Tharp asked OPC member **Jim Colligan** to draw a cartoon of him driving a buckboard loaded with FCCJ board members. The cartoon was printed on T-shirts that were given to each board member.

**NEW YORK:** The University of Illinois awarded "60 Minutes" correspondent **Mike Wallace** its first Illinois Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism. The award was presented at an October dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria. The recipient is selected by the Illinois journalism faculty to honor "work that consistently served as a beacon for other journalists, set the highest standards of excellence in the field, and placed the public good and public awareness before all else." Wallace, 89, an OPC member, has been a "60 Minutes" correspondent since the program started in 1968.

**Davia B. Temin**, an OPC Affiliate member, was one of the women honored by the Girl Scout Council of

Greater New York at its 15th anniversary Women of Distinction Breakfast in October. Temin is president and CEO of Temin and Company, a crisis management and public relations firm that helps create and save the reputations of companies, magazines, universities, scientists, CEOs, politicians, sports figures and writers. Earlier she was a corporate executive at several investment banks and General Electric.

Temin was a Girl Scout in her hometown, Cleveland, where she sold more cookies in one year than did any other girl in Ohio. "The Girl Scouts provided me with my first – powerful, unforgettable – entrepreneurial experience," she said. "Find a girl who was wildly successful selling cookies, and she'll more often than not be wildly successful in her career."

*Newsweek* is shaking up its top editorial ranks. **Richard M. Smith**, 62, who has been with the magazine 37 years, will step down from his posts as the magazine's editor-in-chief and chief executive. **Thomas E. Ascheim**, formerly general manager of Viacom's Nickelodeon Television, has been hired as *Newsweek's* chief executive,



(Continued From Page 5)

but he will have no role in the news operations.

The editor-in-chief post will not be filled, leaving *Newsweek's* editor, **Jon Meacham**, an OPC member, as the highest-ranking newsroom executive.

**Ann McDaniel**, a *Newsweek* vice president and a former editor at the magazine, will take on the newly created title of managing editor.



Thomas E. Ascheim

*New York Times* reporter **Richard Pérez-Peña** wrote that with the advent of the round-the-clock news cycle, epitomized by CNN, Smith "made *Newsweek* less a digest of the week's events than a source of commentary and analysis."

On his office wall, Smith mounted a 1989 *Columbia Journalism Review* cover picture of a dinosaur with the headline, "The News Mags," and the question, "Is the Species Doomed?" *The Times* quoted Smith, "In a time when we are all in the midst of a blizzard of information, what's often missing is a sense of understanding what's important, what's not. We have to be useful guides." *Newsweek* has introduced several foreign-language editions, its domestic circulation is more than 3 million and it remains profitable.

**OSH, Kyrgyzstan:** **Alisher Saipov**, who reported for the Voice of America, was fatally shot three times in his head and chest at close range October 24 as he walked out of his office near the border with Uzbekistan. An ethnic Uzbek, Saipov, 26, was a critic of the authoritarian government of Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov.



Alisher Saipov

BBC Radio reported that Saipov "wrote endlessly about torture in Uzbek prisons, about the total clampdown on dissent, about the economic collapse of what was once the region's richest nation, and about the rise of Islamic radicalism, driven, he always said, by the government persecution of Muslims in Uzbekistan."

**PARIS:** Iceland has the world's

most free press, according to the 2007 World Press Freedom Index compiled by the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders. The United States ranked 48, behind the Czech Republic at 14, Canada 18, the United Kingdom 24 and Israel 44. When the index was first compiled in 2002, the United States was ranked 17 but has steadily declined because of limits on journalists linked to the Iraq War.

At the bottom of the rankings were North Korea 168 and Africa's Eritrea 169. Other rankings included France 31, Taiwan 32, Italy 35, Japan 37, Brazil 84, Cambodia 85, Turkey 101, India 120, Mexico 136, Russia 144 and Iraq 157.

**PHIPPSBURG, Maine:** **Ted Marks** and his wife Marcia moved in October from Kent, Connecticut to Phippsburg, where he is retiring.

Marks was a UPI correspondent in Asia in the 1970s and 1980s, worked for Knight Ridder from 1983 to 1990 and then founded and ran a company that advised media companies on strategic marketing.

**PRESCOTT, Arizona:** When **Jack Casserly** renewed his OPC membership in November, he confirmed his address in Prescott in an e-mail to **Sonya K. Fry**, the Club's executive director, with this comment: "I live in Prescott which literally consists of cowboys, an Indian tribe and cattle in the center of town, and a main drag called Whiskey Row. Yet, we remain on everybody's list as one of the best towns in the country to retire. Do folks miss John Wayne and Roy Rogers?" Casserly was a longtime correspondent for International News Service, starting in the Korean War, and the author of many books. This autumn, Casserly revisited Rome, where he was a correspondent for seven years in the 1950s and 1960s, and reports he is "taking a year off to read the books I've always wanted to peruse."

**RANCHO SANTA FE, California:** October's wild fires came within two miles of **Bob Page's** house, and he and his wife Rebecca were ordered to evacuate. Before they moved, they took nearly 70 photos of the inside of their house for insurance

adjustors just in case, but they weren't needed. Page, 71, a former UPI executive in London, Hong Kong and New York, reported to "People" on California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's handling of the destruction, "Arnold has put on an impressive performance. Too bad he can't be president."

**STONY BROOK, New York:** **Marcy McGinnis**, OPC treasurer, was appointed associate dean of the School of Journalism at Stony Brook University in September. She continues as director of the school's broadcast journalism program. McGinnis worked for CBS News from 1970 to 2005, serving over the years as London bureau chief, vice president Europe and vice president for news coverage. She won three Emmys for her coverage of the death of Princess Diana, and she supervised the network's coverage of September 11, 2001, the war in Afghanistan, Hurricane Katrina and the war in Iraq.



Marcy McGinnis

**SAN MATEO, California:** The late **Lee Chia** was one of the first foreign correspondents to arrive in Japan after World War II. During his many years in Tokyo as correspondent for Taiwan's Central News Agency, he became one of the best-known newsmen in Japan and served many terms as treasurer of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

Now his son, **Victor Lee**, 61, has become a household name in California's Bay Area. Victor is a TV reporter for ABC7. "Viewers recognize and approach him anywhere he goes," reporter Heather Murtagh wrote in San Mateo's *Daily Journal*.

Born in Shanghai, Victor and his mother, a Chinese opera singer, fled Shanghai on the last plane out in 1949 before the Communists took over and joined Lee Chia in Japan. Victor was then 3 years old. He grew up in Japan speaking English at a Tokyo American School, Japanese with friends and Mandarin at home.

While attending San Jose State University, he got a summer internship



at *The New York Times* through his father's friendship with then-*Times* city editor **Abe Rosenthal**. After college, Victor worked for UPI before moving into television. His mother, Topaz, lives in Beaverton, Oregon. His father died several years ago.

**SEOUL:** American and Japanese correspondents who covered South Korea's democratization movement 20 years ago were invited back this summer by the Korea Democracy Foundation. "They treated us like royalty and said we'd made a big difference in helping the movement with our uncensored stories of dissent and democracy," **Mike Tharp** wrote in an e-mail to "People." "Hell, at the time all I thought I was doing was trying to avoid pepper gas, file and drink an OB [a South Korean beer] or two at night." Other correspondents who attended included OPC member **Bruce Dunning**, **Sam Jameson**, **Gebhard Hielscher** and **Barry Hillenbrand**.

**TAIPEI:** Officers of two press clubs on opposite sides of the globe met in Taipei on Taiwan's National Day reception held by Taiwan Ministry on the day Chinese call Double Ten, October 10. **Peter Isaac**, president of the New Zealand National Press Club, and **Peter Hickman**, vice chairman of the newsmakers commit-



**Peter Isaac, left, and Peter Hickman**

tee in Washington's National Press Club, took the opportunity to invite Taiwan's Republic of China (ROC) President Chen Shui-bian to speak to their clubs. But the United States does not permit the Taiwan president to visit, and New Zealand invitations to Taiwan officials have sometimes been withdrawn under pressure from Communist China. But in an e-mail to "People," Isaac wrote, "ROC speakers under National Press Club patronage will find that their speaker's podium



**From left, Masako Imajo, Al Kaff, Leon Daniel and Rikio Imajo in 2000.**

does not disappear at the last moment."

**TOKYO:** Rikio Imajo retired in

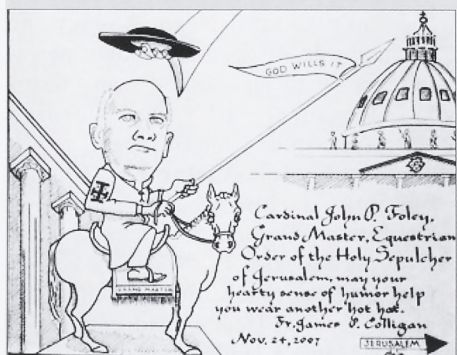
October after 46 years in photojournalism in Japan. He joined UPI in 1961 in Tokyo and then over the years was AFP's photo director for the Asia-Pacific region, freelanced for Sygma and served as director of AP-Wide World Photos Japan when he retired. Imajo is an OPC member.

**WASHINGTON:** When the October *Bulletin* reported that **Andrew L. Lluberes** had been an OPC member since 1991, he fired back an e-mail message: "I've been a member of the OPC since 1973, if not 1973, then certainly 1974, when I moved over to Reuters [from UPI], also served as a judge for the Bob Considine Award when Karen Elliot House won in 1983." Lluberes is the newly-appointed communications director at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The International Reporting Project at The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies has received a five-year, \$1.5 million grant from the Bill and Linda Gates Foundation. OPC member **John Schidlovsky**, founding director of the Project, said the grant will provide fellowships to 24 senior U.S. editors per year to travel on fact-finding trips abroad, usually to developing nations.

OPC member **Tom Curley**, president and CEO of The Associated Press, received a First Amendment Award from The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (RCFP) at an October black-tie dinner attended by some 350 people. Others who received the award were **Colbert I. King**, a member of *The Washington Post's* editorial board; **Nina Totenberg**, National Public Radio's legal affairs correspondent; and **Mark Goodman**, who was executive director of the Student Press Law Center in Arlington, Virginia for two decades until last September and now holds the Knight Chair in Scholastic Journalism at Kent State University.

OPC members on the original steering committee of the Washington-



**Jim Colligan's cartoon of Cardinal Foley**

the College of Cardinals. Foley's biography in Wikipedia said he would rise at 6 a.m. to watch CNN so as to "know what to pray about."

OPC member **Jim Colligan**, a Roman Catholic priest, photojournalist and cartoonist who knew Foley through the Catholic Press Association, drew a congratulatory cartoon of Foley riding a horse and mailed it to the new cardinal in November. The cartoon depicts "him on a knight's charger since he's honorary head of an ancient group whose title contains the word Equestrian [Pro-Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre]," Colligan wrote in an e-mail to "People."

**VATICAN CITY:** A former journalist became a Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church in November. After receiving degrees in history and philosophy, **John Patrick Foley**, born in Darby, Pennsylvania, earned a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University. Ordained in 1962, he served as assistant editor and Rome correspondent for the Philadelphia archdiocesan newspaper *The Catholic Standard & Times*. From 1970 to 1984, he was the paper's editor. Foley, 72, was a Vatican official when Pope Benedict XVI selected him for



based Reporters Committee include **Murray Fromson, Mike Wallace, Walter Cronkite** and **Dan Rather**.

In 1969 after Attorney General John Mitchell threatened to subpoena reporters and demand identification of their sources, Fromson, then with CBS News in Chicago, and the late **Anthony Lukas** of *The New York Times* called 33 journalists across the country to meet in Washington, where they founded the RCFP. The Committee provides free legal service to defend reporters against subpoenas and campaigns in favor of state and federal shield laws.

#### WORCESTER, Massachusetts:

Their ranks dwindling, OPC member **John Rich**, 90, was the only Korean War correspondent to attend the October dedication of the Korean War Memorial of Central Massachusetts. "It's a very impressive memorial that includes statues of an American GI and a Korean boy," Rich told "People."

The bronze sculptures symbolize the estimated 100,000 Korean orphans who were given food, shelter and jobs by U.S. soldiers during the Korean War.

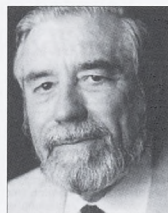
Bricks are being laid at the memorial engraved with the names of Korean War correspondents. Rich, a former NBC News correspondent and executive in Asia and Europe, said nine bricks already are in place, including bricks named for Rich, **Rud Poats, Al Kaff, Sandy Colton**, all veterans of World War II; and the late **George Herman**.

#### PEOPLE REMEMBERED

OPC member **Gerald A. Renner**, 75, a U.S. Navy journalist during the Korean War who became a religious writer exposing sexual abuse in a Roman Catholic order, died of abdominal cancer October 24 in Norwalk, Connecticut, where he lived.

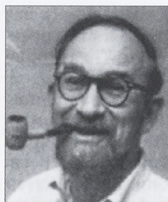
When he was a reporter at

Connecticut's *Hartford Courant* after working for *The Reading Eagle* in Pennsylvania and United Press, Renner and freelance writer **Jason Berry** wrote articles about nine former seminarians in the Legionaries of Christ, a Catholic order, who said they had been sexually victimized over two decades by the order's founder, the Rev. Marcial Maciel Degollado. Renner and Berry wrote *The Vows of Silence: The Abuse of Power in the Papacy of John Paul II* [New York: Free Press, 2004]. The book argued that the Vatican knew of the accusations but failed to discipline Father Maciel because the Pope was pleased with the growth and the theological conservatism of the Legionaries. After John Paul died, Pope Benedict XVI removed Father Maciel from public ministry and asked him to devote his life to "prayer and penitence."



Sculptures of the Korean War GI and a Korean orphan

◆  
**Milton Orshefsky**, 87, a former *Life* magazine correspondent and European bureau chief, died October 17 of pancreatic cancer at his home in Sagaponack, New York. After serving in the U.S. Army in North Africa and Italy, Orshefsky spent 32 years with *Life*.



He was based in Paris for 10 years, in Rome two years and in Hong Kong three years. He covered the Algerian War, the Greek Cypriot war against Britain, the Suez campaign, China's incursion into India, the Vietnam War, Queen Elizabeth's coronation, Grace Kelly's marriage to Prince Rainier, the 1956 Winter Olympics in Italy and the 1972 Munich Olympics when Israeli athletes were killed by terrorists. He recalled saving Brigitte Bardot from a mob of Spanish admirers in Seville and playing an American tourist in Sophia Loren's first movie "but they left me on the cutting room floor."

Born in the Netherlands, **Johtje Vos** went to Paris when she was a young woman to work as a freelance journalist, "which was a scandalous thing at the time," she said.

During Germany's War II occupation of the Netherlands, she and her husband, Aart Vos, hid 36 Jews in their three-bedroom house in Laren, the Netherlands, as many as 14 at any one time. When a German raid was imminent, a sympathetic Dutch police chief would dial their phone, let it ring twice, hang up, then repeat the code.

When the Gestapo pounded on their door, Aart, who knew every stream and field in the area, would shepherd the Jews through a tunnel under their backyard and into the woods. Their exploits are recorded in the 1992 book *Rescuers: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust* [Holmes & Meier]. Johanna (Johtje) Kuyper Vos, who had lived in Woodstock, New York from 1951 until last year, died October 10 in Saugerties, New York. She was 97. Aart Vos died in 1990.



◆  
News of British correspondent **Brian Vine's** death reached the *Bulletin* late. Vine, 74, New York bureau chief for London's *Daily Express* for 12 years starting in 1969, died last year on September 15. *Press News*, the London Press Club's journal, called him "one of the great characters of the old Fleet Street [who] wore Savile Row suits [and] sported a monocle 'for opthalmic reasons,' though the glass obviously was plain."



He scored a famous scoop in 1973 when, with a colleague, he tracked down Britain's most wanted man, train robber Ronnie Biggs, in Brazil. In 1973, Vine broke the news that Defense Minister Lord Lambton was having an affair with a call girl, and he

(Continued on Page 10)



## People Remembered

(Continued From Page 9)

obtained photographs of the minister naked in bed with two women and smoking a marijuana.



OPC member **Lester Ziffren**, 101, who broke the news in 1936 that the Spanish Civil War had started by sending a coded message from Madrid to London, created and solved mysteries for film detective Charlie Chan and represented the U.S. government in South America, died November 12 in New York City.



Lester Ziffren, 1927

At his 1927 journalism graduation dinner at the University of Missouri, he asked the visiting president of United Press for a job, and he got it. UP assigned him to Buenos Aires from where he covered South American revolutions in the late 1920s. He then was assigned to New York and Madrid before becoming a Hollywood film writer, diplomat and public relations executive.

After working for Twentieth Century Fox on several Hollywood films in the 1930s, Zifferen was assigned to the Charlie Chan detective series as a writer until the early 1940s.

After the United States entered World War II, he joined the U.S. government's Inter-American Affairs Department and was assigned to the U.S. embassy in Santiago, Chile. After the war, he took charge of a Hollywood agency, then joined the U.S. State Department with postings in Bogota, Colombia and back to Santiago.

Later he was public relations director of Kennecott Copper in New York City after heading the PR department of Kennecott's subsidiary in Chile. Ziffren's wife, Edythe Wurtzel Ziffren, whom he had met in Madrid, died in 1977.

His daughter, **Didi Hunter**, is also an OPC member. At the time of his death, Ziffren was believed to be the oldest surviving former employee of United Press.

## Al Cullison, Mover and Shaker at FCC

by Al Kaff

Founded shortly after the end of World War II, the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan first was housed in a five-story brick building that had been a restaurant before the war. The premises included rooms where correspondents lived, and **Al Cullison** was one of the residents in 1954.

During the next half century, Cullison became one of the Club's movers and shakers. In 1958, he hired a Japanese model, took her to a professional photographer who made a life-sized nude photo of the girl and posted it just outside the Club's stag bar where it remained for years. Her fig leaf was an arrow printed with the words, "FOR STAGS ONLY."

Cullison served on Club committees and as a board member before he was elected president in 1976 and took on a tough job – moving the Club to the top floor of the newly-built Yurakucho Denki Building. The Club already had moved three times at the request of its landlord, Mitsubishi Estate Company. Each site was located in central Tokyo within a block or two of each other. But members were not sure they wanted to move to the 20th floor of an office building after years in a street-level club.

Cullison worried that he could not park his car in the narrow street. **Karl Bachmeyer** of *Newsweek* argued that the Club always had had a street-level entrance. **Sam Jones** of AP feared his acrophobia would keep him away. But the Club moved into the high rise with a view of the Imperial Palace grounds.

During a half century in Japan, Cullison was a freelance reporter for *The Financial Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *The Economist*, *The Journal of Commerce* and other publications. British correspondent **Henry Scott-Stokes** had dinner with him every Saturday for 20 years. A few years ago, Cullison moved to Denver to live with his sister, Naomi, who died last year.

Alvin E. Cullison, 83, a cancer patient, died June 23 in Denver of pneumonia. In a note to members of the



Cullison, left, toasts Japan Prime Minister Takeo Miki, 1976.

### Comments from members of the Foreign Correspondents' Club:

**Mike Tharp**, "He scared the hell out of most younger reporters, who considered him a troll lurking at the corner of the Correspondents Bar, but I felt free to go in there and have a beer with him and his dice-rolling buddies anytime. I liked Al a lot, irascible as he was."

**Jim Colligan**, "Al was combative."

**Don Shannon**, "Too bad he couldn't have stayed in Tokyo. I don't think he wanted to be any place else."

**Len Saffir**, "This former president isn't going so fast."

Tokyo Correspondents' Club, President **Matryn Williams** wrote, "He was an abrasive, but loveable person to those who knew him and heard him talk on his favorite subject: his six and a half years in the U.S. Navy, mainly during the Pacific War, when he served on destroyers." Cullison held strong views on what the Club should be, and he argued for them vigorously. Example: He strongly opposed turning a small bar where he held court into a sushi bar.

Cullison was the third past president of the Tokyo Correspondents' Club to die this year, all within weeks of each other: **Jack Russell** died May 11, and **Naoki Usui** died June 26.

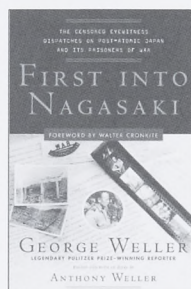


## New Books:

(Continued From Page 12)

**THE FIRST EYEWITNESS** news reports of the destruction caused by the 1945 atomic bombing of Nagasaki were not published until 62 years later. Dispatches written by the first American correspondent to see bombed Nagasaki, where more than 70,000 people died, were killed by censors.

They were written by **George Weller**, a *Chicago Daily News* correspondent who covered World War II in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, winning a 1943 Pulitzer Prize for his Pacific reports.



Four weeks after the Nagasaki bombing, Weller disguised himself as a U.S. Army colonel and went to Nagasaki despite General Douglas MacArthur's ban against newsmen going there. Weller also went to nearby POW camps and gathered accounts from Allied prisoners who, after years of torture, saw the bomb drop. But censors refused to allow Weller to send his dispatches.

After the war, Weller packed his carbon copies in a trunk, but they were lost while he moved around on reporting assignments while based in Rome until retiring in 1975. In the mid-1970s, his Nagasaki dispatches were found in a stone shed in a garden in Cyprus, where Weller had once stayed. Weller shipped them to his home in Italy, where they were lost again.

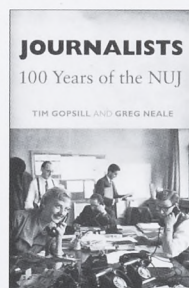
After Weller died at age 95 in 2002, his son, novelist Anthony Weller, found the carbons of his father's Nagasaki dispatches in a crate. He edited and published them in *First Into Nagasaki* [New York: Crown Publishers].

OPC member **Walter Cronkite**, who reported from Europe during World War II, wrote the forward, commenting in part, "There is so much in this volume that we never knew or have long forgotten. It comes at a time when our nation is again at war and our citizenry can only guess as to how thick are the blindfolds of censorship that distort the truth of our military

engagements and our international commitments."

## EUROPE

**BRITAIN'S NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS** is celebrating its centenary this year. **Tim Gopsill**, editor of the NUJ magazine, *The Journalist*, wrote that the union was "founded in 1907 by half-starved local paper journalists who saw the riches that [press baron Viscount] Northcliffe's presses were churning out and determined to carve themselves a cut." The union's history is told in *JOURNALISTS: 100 Years of the NUJ* [London: Profile Books] by Gopsill and **Greg Neale**.



## LATIN AMERICA

**MORE THAN 20 MILLION IMMIGRANTS** from Latin America now live and work in the United States. Journalist **Kenneth D. MacHarg** describes the poverty and other problems that have led to the flood of Latin Americans into the United States in *From Rio to the Rio Grande: Challenges and Opportunities in Latin America* [Global Village Press].

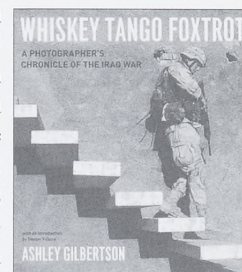
The author, who has lived in Panama, Ecuador and Costa Rica and visited nearly every country in Latin America, writes, "As North Americans view, sometimes with alarm, the entrance of immigrants along with the flow of drugs and the spread of gangs, they must advocate for governmental policies and programs that could help the countries to the south lift their people out of poverty."

## MIDDLE EAST

**PHOTOGRAPHS OF AMERICA'S** early battles in Iraq, occupation of Baghdad, the insurgency that followed and the battle to overtake Fallujah are collected in *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot* [University of Chicago Press]. Photojournalist **Ashley Gilbertson** took the photos for *The New York Times* while dodging sniper fire, watching a bomb squad defuse an improvised explosive device (IED) and

following U.S. Marines into urban combat. In addition to the photos, he writes about his personal experiences in covering the war.

Gilbertson was just 25 years old when he arrived in Iraq on the eve of the U.S. invasion. He is an OPC member, and he won the Club's 2005 Robert Capa Award for his coverage of the Fallujah battle.

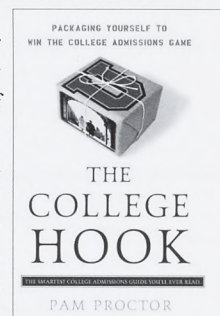


## NORTH AMERICA

**DO YOUR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN** want to get into a top university or college? Then they should read *The College Hook: Packaging Yourself to Win the College Admissions Game* [New York: Center Street] by OPC member **Pam Proctor**.

Proctor, president of College Application Consultants, writes, "This book is your guide to the powerful packaging weapon known as the Hook – a special talent, achievement, or personal quality that will leap off the page of a college application and catch the eye of admission officers... Students whose credentials would have made them shoo-ins for the Ivies and Little Ivies just a few years ago have discovered, to their chagrin, that they just didn't cut it." She continues, "Every high school student actually has a College Hook – that one special interest that will cause admission officials to salivate over an application and significantly increase the odds of getting into a favorite college."

The author explains how students can find their hooks, describes in details the top 10 college hooks, and tells how to package and sell hooks. Before she started advising teens how to get into major universities and colleges, Proctor was a senior editor of *Parade*. She has written 10 nonfiction books.



— by Al Kaff



# New Books

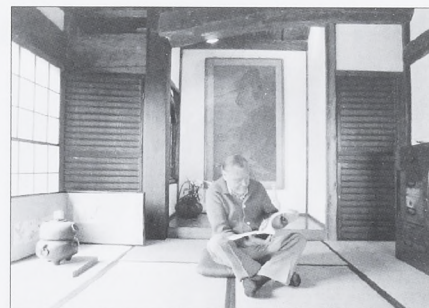
## ASIA

**“WHEN THE HURLY-BURLY,** of today’s world overwhelms me with its news of the never-ending war between good and evil, love and hate, I hobnob with the rustic ghosts of centuries past in my restored old farmhouse on a hill, overlooking Kamakura, the ancient capitol of Japan.” For 39 years, **John Roderick** had been an AP correspondent in the United States, China, Japan, the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. When he was a China watcher in Tokyo, he longed for a permanent home. Roderick had met a young Japanese man, Yoshirio (Yochan) Takishita, who persuaded him to buy a wooden, thatched-roof farmhouse, called *minka* in Japanese. In 1965, despite his misgivings, Roderick pur-



chased a *minka* built in 1734 that was going to be torn down to make way for the lake created by a new dam. “It was a monster of a house,” Roderick wrote in *Minka: My Farmhouse in Japan* [New York: Princeton Architectural Press]. “Thirty feet high, its steep high snow roof scowled down at me like an enraged elephant. Its size and height terrified me.” But urged on by Yochan, Roderick paid 5,000 yen (about U.S. \$14 in those days) for the farmhouse, had it dismantled, trucked to another town at a cost of \$2,000 for storage, purchased 100 tsubo (about 300 square meters) of land for \$6,900 on Kamakura’s Great Peak where Japanese carpenters reassembled the *minka*’s timbers that are held together by wooden pegs and erected its original walls. Roderick once hoped that the timbers would remain in storage. But now he views his *minka* as a symbol of his friendship and respect for the Japanese people “that I – and so many Americans – once hated, intensely, blindly, and totally. . . . It is my private shelter from the global storms that rage all around us. It represents to me, the triumph of love over hate. It is, at last, a house of my own.”

Roderick, 91, now divides his time between Honolulu and his *minka* in Kamakura, 350 miles from its original site. His farmhouse, just south of Tokyo, has been visited by foreign diplomats, government leaders and scores of foreign correspondents. Before he became the first Bush presi-



John Roderick in his *minka*.

dent, George H. W. Bush stopped in Japan in 1974 while en route to China to become the official U.S representative in Beijing.

He and Barbara Bush visited Roderick at the *minka* for a briefing on China, where Roderick had spent months with Chairman Mao Tse-tung before the Communist victory and years as a China watcher in Hong Kong and Tokyo.

Hillary Clinton and her mother were later visitors to the *minka* Yochan, a law school graduate who persuaded Roderick to acquire and live in the *minka* and who supervised its reassembling, now runs a Japanese antique business next door to Roderick’s farmhouse. Roderick legally adopted Yochan so that he could name him in his will. The book is illustrated with step-by-step photos of the *minka*’s reassembling, and the author weaves in bits of Japanese history and glimpses into the lives of Japanese people.

(Continued on Page 11)

## Coming Up...

SAVE THE DATE  
**OPC Holiday Party**  
Monday, January 7  
Rockefeller Center CQ

**2007 OPC Award Nominations**  
Applications are available online  
[www.opcofamerica.org](http://www.opcofamerica.org)  
Deadline: January 30

Overseas Press Club of America  
40 West 45 Street  
New York, NY 10036 USA